

SENATE BILL 615

By Bell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 33; Title 63 and Title 68, relative to mental
health.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

(a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Facility" has the same meaning as defined in § 68-11-201;

(2) "Healthcare provider" means a person who is licensed, certified, or
authorized or permitted by the laws of this state to administer health care in the
ordinary course of business or practice of a profession; and

(3) "Qualified mental health professional" has the same meaning as
defined in § 33-1-101.

(b) A healthcare provider who knows or reasonably should know that a person
who has been admitted to a facility and who is in the healthcare provider's care has
threatened or attempted suicide or to inflict serious bodily harm on the person, shall
ensure that, prior to the person's discharge from the facility, the person is provided
access to a qualified mental health professional or is provided contact information for a
qualified mental health professional or mental health counseling resource.

(c) A healthcare provider who violates this section commits professional
misconduct and is subject to discipline by the healthcare provider's licensing authority.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it, and
applies to facility admissions occurring on or after that date.